

# Alicia Cortez Elementary School

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Dear Cortez Elementary Families:

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! As I begin my third year serving as Principal at Cortez, I am looking forward to continuing to get to know family members so that we can work together to make the best decisions and actions for all students. At Cortez we have an amazing team of professionals. Among our priorities is maintaining a safe environment where we can support the emotional well-being and academic success of every student.

This year, our theme is “**Igniting our Why!**” This means that we are reflecting on why we choose to be in the field of education, or work at Cortez, and we are igniting our passion for doing what we do. My personal “why” involves serving others. In my role as Principal, I often ask others, “How can I support what you would like to do, what you are doing, or what you have been asked to do?”

I extend an invitation for families to join the conversations and decision-making at Cortez. Not only does your student thrive when you are involved, the entire school community benefits from your involvement. Make time to connect with your student’s teacher. There are opportunities to serve on School Site Council, English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC), Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committee, to help in your student’s classroom, volunteer with PFA or Art Pals, or coach an after school sports activity. As a means of staying connected, take a moment to read my weekly messages, usually sent on Sunday afternoon.

All students should have opportunities to learn every day. This begins with students being at school on time, every day. Remember to plan for morning traffic to avoid being late and to schedule appointments on minimum days or after school to avoid removing your student from school early.

Finally, I hope you will reach out to me to schedule a time to talk or just share ideas.

Sincerely

Gerald Matthews, Ed.D., Principal